

# VISN 19 Network Director Update

## Glen W. Grippen



March 2009



**National:** On 3/18/09, Secretary Shinseki announced his decision on the Denver Replacement Hospital. He will build a stand alone hospital.

The Secretary attended the opening ceremonies of the Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass March 28 - 29, 2009. Anticipated trip to Denver was cancelled due to weather .

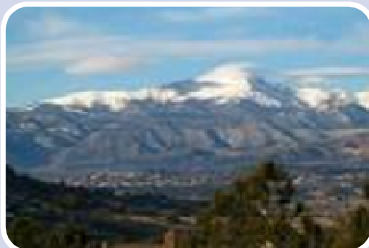
Dr. Kussman, Under Secretary for Health visited the DVAMC 4/1/09.



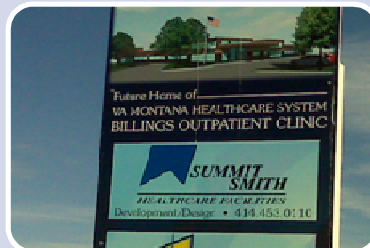
**VISN 19:** On 3/18/09, Mr. Grippen held a press conference, a local VSO meeting & participated in several all VA Employee Townhall meetings at the Denver VA to share the news of the Secretary's decision. Other aspects of the VISN 19 Expansion Plan continue to be implemented. Updates are reported by facility below. VISN 19 continues to place strong emphasis on Home Care and Telemedicine and has submitted 8 proposals to the VA Office of Rural Health. We have hired a Palliative Care Coordinator and a new Compliance Officer.



**At Fitzsimons,** all land (4 parcels) has been purchased. Stand Alone Medical Center design plans are being developed. The Joint Venture Team is working on modifications including expansion of diagnostic and treatment space, addition of Operating Rooms, 30 SCI beds, and design of bed and research towers. Construction priority is placed on primary care building for accommodation of DoD/Buckley's need by 2012. Demolition to begin June 2009. Energy Plant is being re-designed to expand renewable energy capabilities. Anticipate ground breaking summer 2009.



**Colorado Springs (COS) Health Care Center:** The preferred site has been identified and the building layout has been approved. The VISN and VAMC continue to analyze the cost associated with the build-to-suit lease option. Active discussions are ongoing with the DoD to share surgical services.



**Billings Montana Phase I Health Care Center** contractor broke ground 1/09. Footings and foundation are completed. Contractor started to form walls 2/09. Steel work at the main entrance and lobby completed 3/10/09. Trusses completed 3/20/09; outside sheeting will be done week of 3/23/09; floor slabs to be poured first part of April. VA Montana Health Care System is on track for the October 1, 2009 finish date. The clinic will be expanded to include same day surgery by 2010. **VAMTHCS** hosted an open house at the new Havre CBOC on 2/13/09.



**Sheridan VAMC** held a grand re-opening for Service Pins, the 100 year old bowling alley on the VA grounds late February. Patients will once again have a bowling alley to use for recreation and events. The event was attended by ~ 60 people, including media from TV, Radio, and Newspaper. The facility also received media attention for partnering with a local "Horses for Heroes" program that offers horses as a form of therapy to Wyoming Veterans. The program is a huge success and will be expanded.



**Grand Junction VAMC** is on track to open a Telehealth Outreach Clinic in Montezuma Creek. as computer connections have now been established. Staff will be traveling to the area to provide training. The clinic will be seeing patients immediately following training. The Surgical expansion project at the medical center will add 3,000 s.f. to the third floor for the addition of four operating rooms, an ICU, PACU and SPD. This project slated to be complete by the end of 2011.



**George E. Whalen's VA Medical Center, Salt Lake City, Utah**, Associate Chief of Staff for Academic Affiliations, Grant W. Cannon, M.D., was selected to receive the 2008 David M. Worthen Award for Academic Excellence. This is the highest award given by the Veterans Health Administration to recognize outstanding achievements of national significance in health professions education. Dr. Cannon has demonstrated outstanding leadership as an educator both locally and nationally. The award was presented to Dr. Cannon at the National Leadership Board meeting on February 18, 2008 .

Anticipate the announcement of a new SLCHCS Director soon.



**Cheyenne VAMC** hosted a successful and well-attended Ribbon Cutting Event for the newly relocated Fort Collins VA Clinic, 2509 Research Blvd., Fort Collins on March 6, 2009.

The Cheyenne VAMC mobile Van clinic is anticipated to come on line August 2009. The permanent magnet for MRI services should be at the Cheyenne VAMC by the end of July 2009. They have hired a 2<sup>nd</sup> orthopedic surgeon and anticipate he will be on board soon. They have hired a podiatrist who will be on board this week . Interviews are being held with a general surgeon to fill their second slot for the expansion of surgery services at the Cheyenne VAMC.